

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

4145 '01 MAR 19 AIO:17

Re: "Voluntary Labeling Indicating Whether Foods Have or Have Not Been Developed Using Bioengineering" Draft Guidance released for comment January 200 1

Dear FDA Commissioner,

I strongly feel that *mandatory* labeling is appropriate for all food, whole or processed, produced from bioengineered plants or from dairy cattle injected with bioengineered hormones, which is sold for **human** consumption.

If it is the FDA's intent to conceal from the American public the origin of their food, so that we are unable to exercise choice, and if it is the FDA's intent to subject American citizens to an enormous laboratory experiment, then voluntary labeling of genetically manipulated foods is the way to achieve this.

I am advocating "mere disclosure" given by example in your below report as "contains genetically modified ingredients" or "a genetically modified food".

Your own "Report on Consumer Focus Groups on Biotechnology", by Alan S. Levy and Brenda M. Derby, Office of Scientific Analysis and Support, Division of Market Studies, Consumer Studies Team, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, states in part:

"Virtually all participants said that bioengineered foods should be labeled as such so that they could tell whether a given food was a product of the new technology"

"Virtually all participants saw value in having 'mere disclosure' labeling. They thought it would allow them to make more informed decisions about whether or not to buy a product."

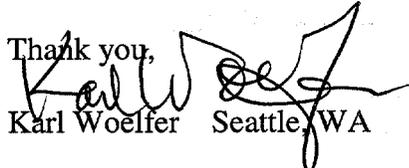
Participants said they wanted to be informed because of "concerns about unknown long-term consequences of food biotechnology"

The European Union and the rest of the industrialized world have strongly rejected bioengineered foods.

As an American consumer, I feel that I have a right to know whether food that I buy is wholesome and natural, or whether it is gene-manipulated.

Please enact mandatory labeling of all bioengineered foods.

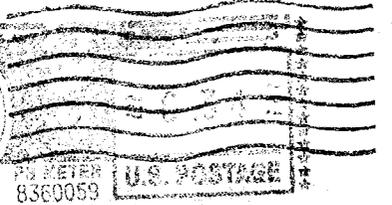
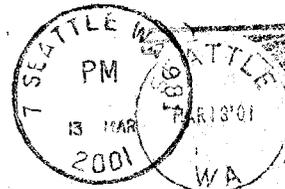
Thank you,


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